(1961)

## NOSTRADAMUS AND HIS PROPHECIES



INCLUDING

All the Prophecies in French and English, With Complete Notes and Indexes

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A Critical Biography of Nostradamus, His Will and Personal Letters

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Historical, Geographical and Genealogical Background

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A Review of Theories About Him, His Method and Other Supplementary Material

BY

Edgar Leoni

Bell Publishing Company New York

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- 87. Un fils du Roi tant de langues appris, À son aîné au regne différent: Son père beau¹ au plus grand fils compris, Fera périr principal adhérent.
- 88. Le grand Antoine du nom de fait sordide De Phtiriase à son dernier rongé: Un qui de plomb voudra être cupide, Passant le port d'élu sera plongé.
- Response de Londres secret conjureront, Contre leur Roi, sur le pont<sup>2</sup> l'entreprise: Lui, satellites la mort dégoûteront, Un Roi élu blond, natif de Frize.
  - 90. Les deux copies<sup>3</sup> aux murs<sup>4</sup> ne pourront joindre, Dans cet instant trembler Milan, Ticin:<sup>5</sup> Faim, soif, doutance<sup>6</sup> si fort les viendra poindre Chair, pain, ni vivres n'auront un seul boucin.<sup>7</sup>
  - 91. Au Duc Gaulois contraint battre au duel, La nef Mellele<sup>8</sup> Monech<sup>9</sup> n'approchera, Tort accusé, prison perpetuelle, Son fils regner avant mort tâchera.
  - 92. Tête tranchée du vaillant capitaine, Sera jetée devant son adversaire: Sons corps pendu de la *classe*<sup>10</sup> à l'antenne, Confus fuira par rames à vent contraire.
  - 93. Un serpent vu proche du lit royal, Sera par dame nuit chiens n'aboyeront: Lors naître en *France* un Prince tant royal, Du ciel venu tous les Princes verront.

'Possibly a play on beau-père.

Possibly Latin pontus, sea.

Latin copia, forces, army.

'Variant: mers.

<sup>5</sup>Latin Ticinum, Pavia.

O.F. doutance, doubt.

Provençal boucin, morsel, mouthful.

This looks like Melilla, which does not fit the context too well. Variants: Melle less Mesele (Fortune); Meselle (Garcin).

Latin Portus Herculis Monoeci, Monaco.

<sup>10</sup>Latin classis, fleet, ship (by the reverse of extension).

E. LEONT, NOSTRADAMUS AND HIS PRODUCTES 246 /1961 88. This one may have been an embarrassingly precise prophecy for some 16th-century potentate. Phthiriasis (pediculosis) is a rather vague kind of illness caused by lice. Although lines 3 and 4 are obscure, Anthony and the lice stand out clearly enough. The most notable Anthony of the day was Henry IV's father, Duke of Bourbon-Vendôme and King of Navarre (1555–62). He did not become a really important figure till a few years after the quatrain was published, but he was a king (since May, 1555). From 1559 till his death he was one of the most important factors determining France's destiny. However, there is no record of his lousiness. Gould and Pyle (p. 821) mention a number of famous men reportedly "eaten of worms" or lice, and while not including Anthony, they do include, surprisingly, one of Nostradamus' favorite characters, Philip II of Spain.

89. Somehow or other, all Nostradamus' predictions involving England are very clear and lucid. An extremely good case can be made for applying this one to the Glorious Revolution of 1688–89. William III, having no intention of being double-crossed by his English supporters if things went badly, insisted that the great lords who proposed his "liberating" England should put it in writing. Ward (1891) cites the Gentleman's Magazine as saying that twenty-nine signatures were affixed to the document. (According to most accounts, however, only the names of Shrewsbury, Devonshire, Danby, Lumley, Compton, Russell and Sydney were on it.) If pont is taken for sea, which is not too farfetched, there was indeed a constant flurry of conspirators going

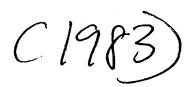
back and forth across the Channel before William finally sailed with his expedition. Line 3 applies well enough to James II and his reactionary clique, who, finding themselves without military support (because of the timely desertion of Winston Churchill's illustrious ancestor, the future Duke of Marlborough), decided they'd just as soon not become martyrs. William III is not recorded as having been fair (one meek interpretation has it that he had been in his youth), but he certainly was from Frisia, the classical name for Holland, and still the name of one of its provinces. Another point for Nostradamus is that there was no conceivable Dutch candidate for the English throne in his own day.

# NOSTRADAMUS

### COUNTDOWN TO APOCALYPSE

## Jean-Charles de Fontbrune

Translated by Alexis Lykiard
Preface by Liz Greene





HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON
New York

The Glorious Revolution, 1688. The Conspiracy against James II. The Landing of William of Orange, 7 November 1688. The Bill of Rights. William and Mary, 1689

> Trente de Londres secret conjureront, Contre leur Roy, sur le pont<sup>1</sup> l'entreprise: Luy fatalites la mort desgouteront Un Roy esleu blonde, natif, de Frize.<sup>2</sup>

> > CIV,Q89

#### Interpretation

Thirty people in London will plot against their king; the enterprise will take place by sea. The fatalities of death [his father's] will disgust him, then a king, a native of Friesland, will be chosen with a blonde woman. [Mary].

#### History

'When he ascended to the throne in 1685 James II knew the dangers threatening him, and that his religion would cause as much hostility as his political views. This hostility reached a peak on 20 June 1688 when a Roman Catholic heir was born, Prince James Edward. This event (the King was then fifty-five) put paid to all hopes of a Protestant successor. Ten days after the birth Arthur Herbert, former Vice-Admiral, brought William of Orange [native of Friesland] an appeal for assistance signed by various [trente de Londres] great noblemen. William, the son-in-law of James II by his marriage to Mary, had been having discussions for several months with opponents of the English King, and was therefore invited to lead the second English revolution. The 1688 Revolution was remarkably short. On 7 November 1688 William landed at Torbay. On 25 December James II, persuaded to flee, landed on French soil. On 23 February 1689 the royal succession was settled. The blundering James II had been unable to make the necessary concessions rapidly, so that the question of who should be king had not been posed by William himself, whose personal popularity remained doubtful. The memory of his father's execution greatly influenced the King's attitude and made him too eager to concede defeat. On 13 February 1689 Parliament adopted a law setting out the rights and liberties of every citizen and determining the succession SF; to the Crown [Roy esleu], known as the Bill of Rights. This law legitimized bec'lest

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William and Mary as joint monarchs, established their succession and excluded Catholics from the throne in future. On 23 February the two new sovereigns were proclaimed, since they adhered to this Bill.'3

- <sup>1</sup> Greek πόντος: the sea. DGF.
- <sup>2</sup> One of the provinces of the Kingdom of Holland. DHB.

3 HRU.

Villars and the War of the League of Augsburg.
The Liberation of Provence, 1707, after its Occupation by the Duke of Savoy. Villars and the Camisard Rebellion, 1702-5

La mer Tyrrhene, l'Occean par la garde, Du grand Neptune<sup>1</sup> et ses tridens soldats: Provence seure par la main du grand Tende,<sup>2</sup> Plus Mars Narbon l'héroiq de Vilars.

Presage 2

#### Interpretation

The Tyrrhenian Sea and the Ocean will be guarded by England and her sailors, Provence will be delivered from the Duke of Savoy, [the great one from Tende], and the heroic Duke of Villars will put an end to the war in Languedoc.

#### History

The greatest calamity was at sea. The King [of France] had still not given up hope of restoring James to the throne. A landing force of 20,000 men was to have been supported by a fleet totalling 65 vessels, when all the squadrons had joined up. One contingent was in the Mediterranean; winds and storms prevented its arriving on time. The success tasted by Villars meant that the original plan was expanded. He was deprived of several detachments which were then redirected to Provence, recently invaded by the Duke of Savoy. Despite prudence the invasion of Provence did not proceed as planned. An English fleet supported the land army and was given the task of transporting the heavy artillery which could not have been carried over the mountain route. The enemy pushed forward without difficulty deep into Provence and neared Toulon by the

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# THE SECRETS OF NOSTRADAMUS

A Radical New Interpretation of the Master's Prophecies



DAVID OVASON



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of Ancient Mysteries

2, Richelieu was e last year of his lars, 22-year-old inspiring against nd his deceptive King and Riche-Richelieu died. he young Cinqrra desarmé. It that Cinq-Mars nflexible principrivileges: conmother possible f the conspiracy vice. We should the last word of governs military I of the human rly appropriate, 'a head, and the

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commentators (which renders Language conean "carried in represented by the two fishes which are carried (ductus) in the liquid (lique, from the Latin liquefacere, to make liquid).

Now the interesting thing is that on February 24, 1643, not only were the two ponderable planets in Pisces (*liqueduct*), but so were the Sun and Mercury.<sup>29</sup> It was a rare cosmic moment in which watery Pisces was being emphasized in a most unusual way. It would be inevitable that the astrologer Nostradamus, once apprised of the future date of the entombment of the great Cardinal, would seek to emphasize a reference to this in terms of a Piscean satellitium (a satellitium is a conjunction, or near conjunction, of three or more planets).<sup>30</sup>

Arles ne monstres does not make much sense unless we accord it an astrological significance, and read it as a misprint for Aries ne monstres. This reading is then perfectly in accord with the astrological symbolism of the events.<sup>31</sup> For conspiring against Richelieu, Cinq-Mars was beheaded. Aries rules the head, and the planet Mars (besides ruling Aries) governs such things as decapitation. The two men—the young and the old—died in the same year, but it was only the death of the great Richelieu which was manifested in the stars. Quite literally, Aries was not shown (Aries ne monstres) in the skies at the death of the young man.

This Richelieu quatrain must take its place as one of the most brilliant in the Nostradamian repertoire. In a few short lines, Nostradamus tells a complex future history which describes perfectly the two main protagonists, comments on the nature of their deaths, and reflects upon the planetary conditions surrounding their end.<sup>32</sup>

#### THE ELECTED KING OF ENGLAND

Quatrain IV.89 is notable for the precision with which a complex and unexpected history is woven into four lines of verse. The quatrain deals with the way William, Prince of Orange, was invited to the throne of England.

Trente de Londres secret conjureront, Contre leur Roy sur le pont l'entreprinse, Luy, satellites la mort degousteront, Un Roy esleu blond, & natif de Frize.

The following tentative translation will be amended in the course of analysis:

Thirty of London conspire in secret, Against their King on the point of the undertaking, To him, the satellites will taste of death, A blond King elected, and native of Friesland.

The word London (Londres), in the first line, sets the scene, but it is the last line of the quatrain which points to the subject of this quatrain: Un Roy esleu blond, & natif de Frize. William III is the only monarch in European history to have been elected (esleu) to the role of kingship, and it is evident that this quatrain relates to his election to the British throne, in 1689, to replace the absconded James II.

The term *esleu* permits us to recognize immediately the identity of this king, but the word *blond* gives us problems. It has been misunderstood by most commentators.

Charles Ward, who wrote at some length about this quatrain, was wrong about several of its details: the color of William's hair, and his insistence that he wore a wig. Prior to being made William III, he did not wear a wig—entirely in accordance with Dutch fashion. Wigs were popular in the French and English courts, but not among the Dutch. William's hair was dark brown as the portrait by Lely, painted at the time of William's marriage in 1677 to Mary (eldest daughter of the future James II), reveals.

In fact, we suspect that the Nostradamus reference was not intended to mean "blond" in respect of hair coloring. For some time, we were under the impression that it was derived from the Latin *blandus*, meaning "pleasant, agreeable," etc., for the election of William was an agreeable one, even a necessary one, for England at that time. However, a chance observation of C. T. Onions' notes on the medieval Latin etymology of the word *blond* changed our opinion. According to Onions, the word is probably of German origin, and in the form *blondus* meant "yellow." In the sixteenth century, there could be fewer less arcane ways of suggesting the name of the future elected king, who was William of *Orange*.

One of the earliest English commentators on Nostradamus, known only by the initials D.D., observed that while some of the details in the quatrain point to William III, one serious objection is that he was not from Friesland (*Frize*)—he was born in the Hague. However, Nostradamus does appear to have his details right: by the middle of the seventeenth century, what we now call the Netherlands and Belgium consisted of three main divisions. To the south, bordering on France, were the old Spanish Netherlands, acquired by war and diplomacy by France between

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tradamus, known the details in the it he was not from ver, Nostradamus f the seventeenth tium consisted of ace, were the old y France between 1659 and 1679. To the north of this were the remains of the Spanish Netherlands, bordering to the east on the German Empire (Bishopric of Liège), with Luxembourg ringed by the Empire and France to the southeast. The third, much larger tract, consisted of the United Provinces, which had been independent of the Empire since 1648. These stretched from just north of Bruges and Antwerp up to the North Sea, and included Friesland and Groningen in the north. Nostradamus described very well this new United Provinces more precisely by describing that acquisition of 1648.

What do we make of the "thirty of London" (Trente de Londres) of the first line—is this a reference to those who were involved in secret negotiations against their king? In his account of the secret attempts to install William in favor of James II, the eighteenth-century historian Tobias Smollett gives a very specific list of those who drew up the first invitations to William. The phrase secret conjureront is apposite, for the first official overtures were made to William, in cipher-letter, which was signed by some of the great men of England—Shrewsbury, Devonshire, Danby, Lumley, Compton, Russell and Sidney. Whether there were precisely 30 involved in this cabal is not clear, but the total must have approached that figure. Smollet lists 14 of the more illustrious by name. An anonymous commentator on Nostradamus, writing in 1691, observes that "The thirty of London agree well with the 29 Lords mentioned in the Gazette, Decemb. 11–88."

The interpretation of the second line—Contre leur Roy sur le pont l'entreprinse—is far from easy. The French sur le pont l'entreprinse, which should be translated "on the bridge the undertaking," does not appear to make much sense within the context, and it is tempting to read pont as an error for point. However, the bridge (pont), or, more precisely, the "bridging enterprise" (le pont l'entreprinse), could be seen as the bridging of the channel between England and Holland—a most famous expedition at the time, with all the outer trappings of invasion, however peaceful and bloodless. The commentator J.F., in his The Predictions of Nostradamus, Before the Year 1558, seems to have been the first to propose this imaginative reading, and it does offer a sensible interpretation of an otherwise knotty line.

The third line—Luy, satellites la mort degousteront—also offers problems. To whom does the word Luy refer, and who are the satellites? It is tempting to take the latter as referring to the satellites (supporters) around James II, some of whom did later taste of death (la mort degousteront)—especially those among the Scots who remained loyal to him. On the

other hand, it is more likely that the *satellites* are countries, rather than individuals. That would explain the curious structure of the line, which begins with a personal pronoun for which there is no identifiable person or verb. This is the word *Luy*, for the verb *degousteront* is plural, and therefore relates to *satellites*. However, read as a Green Language homotherefore relates to *satellites*. However, read as a Green Language homotherefore, *Luy* would be Louis XIV, who offered succor to James II. By the time James reached Paris, France was at war with Holland, Spain and the Empire—the image of there being satellites around Louis XIV is brilliant, for he was indeed surrounded by a quiltwork of enemies. Certainly there was no shortage of blood-tasting on the Continent.

There is usually some deeper meaning in even the most bland-seeming lines of Nostradamus, and we wonder if this reference to Continental bloodletting is intended as a wry contrast to what happened contemporaneously in England. Ever since the election of William of Orange to the throne of England, the event has been called by English historians the Peaceful or the Bloodless Revolution.

A piece of doggerel, written toward the end of the seventeenth century, seems to complete the quatrain, in its vision of how a strengthened Prince of Orange would be able to deal more adequately with France—as, at the time, so many Englishmen fervently hoped:

If a Fury Poetick,
Foreknows things to come,
I may dare be Prophetick,
And foretell his just doom.
Besides old Nostredame
Has Predicted the same,
That if once the brave Orange approaches too nigh,
The gay Flower-de-luces will wither and dye.<sup>36</sup>

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